

Appl. No.: 10/603,913
Reply to Office Action of: 11/14/2008

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 and 34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The examiner is requested to reconsider this rejection. The examiner stated that the disclosure failed to provide support for "an integral electrical connector structure", "providing on the cover member an integral electrical structure" and "the integral electrical structure is configured to removably receive at least a portion of a mating connecting member of the electronic component therein". Applicants respectfully submit that the specification provides sufficient description as to "enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same". For example, the specification states that "[i]n addition, the provision of an integral connector structure on the cover member has the advantage of ..." (see page 7, lines 2-4). The specification also describes the moulded cover 22 as incorporating the electrical circuitry element 10 and includes connector structures 118 which correspond to the regions 18 in the moulding space 16 (see page 2, lines 29-31). Additionally, the specification describes that the connecting structures 118 are formed during the injection moulding step (see page 4, lines 32-34). Further, the specification states that the component 36 comprises a first connecting member 36A for insertion into one of the connecting structure 118 and the second component 38 comprises a second connecting member 38A for insertion into the other of the connecting structures 118 (see page 5, lines 27-31). If you can insert a component into

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a connector then, as is well known in the art, the component can also be removed (i.e. removably received).

Claims 1-20 and 34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. The examiner is requested to reconsider this rejection. Applicants have amended claim 1 to recite "wherein the integral electrical connector structure is configured to removably receive at least a portion of a mating connecting member of the electronic component in the integral electrical connector structure", to address the examiner's concerns. Those of ordinary skill in the art would understand that the integral electrical connector structure (which is part of the cover) can receive a removable connector associated with an electronic component. Additionally, Claims 2-20 and 34 have been amended above to address the examiner's concerns, including the recitation of 'method' instead of 'process' to clarify applicants' claimed invention.

Claims 1 and 2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Yuasa et al. (US 6,603,283). Claims 3 and 4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Yuasa et al. (US 6,603,283) in view of Sugiyama et al. (US 4,781,600). Claims 5-9, 12, 13, 18, and 34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Yuasa et al. (US 6,603,283) in view of Sullivan et al. (US 7,181,172). Claims 10, 11, 14, and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Yuasa et al. (US 6,603,283) in view of Sullivan et al. (US 7,181,172) and Yusa (US 7,211,207). Claim 16 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Yuasa et al. (US 6,603,283) in view of Sullivan et al. (US 7,181,172), Yusa (US 7,211,207), and

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Murakami et al. (US 4,239,813). Claims 17-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Yuasa et al. (US 6,603,283) in view of Sullivan et al. (US 7,181,172), Yusa (US 7,211,207), and Nishihara et al. (US 5,118,458). The examiner is requested to reconsider these rejections.

"A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference." *Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987). It is submitted that Yuasa fails to teach each and every element as set forth in claim 1 for at least the reasons described below.

Applicants have amended claim 1 to recite, *inter alia*, "wherein the providing on the electronic device cover member an integral electrical connector structure comprises forming the integral electrical connector structure with the cover member in a mould".

In contrast, Yuasa does not teach or disclose a connector structure, let alone a connector structure configured to receive a connecting member therein. Instead, Yuasa provides connection tabs 10a, 11a which are strips of metal "bent to stand up" (see col. 5, lines 1-10) which are received by the terminal 7, 8. In other words, the connection tabs 10a, 11a do not receive anything therein, or inside the connection tabs (as they are "male" members with no electrical connector structure).

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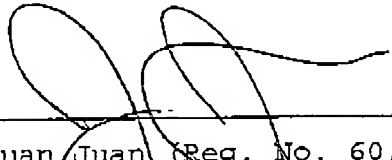
The features of claim 1 are not disclosed or suggested in the art of record. Therefore, claim 1 is patentable and should be allowed.

Though dependent claims 2-20 and 34 contain their own allowable subject matter, these claims should at least be allowable due to their dependence from allowable claim 1. However, to expedite prosecution at this time, no further comment will be made.

For all of the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now present in the application are clearly novel and patentable over the prior art of record. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested. If there are any additional charges with respect to this Amendment or otherwise, please charge deposit account 50-1924 for any fee deficiency. Should any unresolved issue remain, the examiner is invited to call applicants' attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

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Respectfully submitted,



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